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in the  
**HOSPITAL**  
you can still  
**VOTE**

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

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Many registered voters are hospitalized on election day and are uncertain as to the proper procedures to follow in order to vote. This brochure outlines the correct voting procedures to follow for those voters hospitalized on election day.

The following are some of the more common questions pertaining to the subject of voting while hospitalized:

*Q. I am now hospitalized and anticipate continued hospitalization until after the election. How do I vote in the general election?*

A. Contact either your floor nurse, and ask her to obtain for you the 'Application for Ballot by Physically Incapacitated Voter', or the appropriate election authority for the same application. You may complete all these procedures by mail.

*Q. I will be entering the hospital the day before the election for surgery. What should I do in order to vote?*

A. You may wish to complete the procedures in person, if possible, as it is faster than by mail. Contact your County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners for the incapacitated voter's application, being sure to have your attending physician complete the certificate on the application. Deliver the application at least one day before the election and vote your ballot in the election authority's office.

*Q. I am now hospitalized and I will be released a couple days before the*

*election; however, my physician says I cannot leave the house for at least 2 weeks after I return home. How do I vote?*

A. While you are still hospitalized, follow the procedures listed at the end of this brochure.

Q. *My husband was just admitted to the hospital as an emergency patient. It is just 5 days before the election and his physician thinks he'll be here at least a week. Is there any way he can vote?*

A. Immediately obtain the application from your hospital, if possible, or from either your County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners; have your husband complete the application, the physician complete the appropriate certificate, and the application should then be delivered to the election authority. The election authority will mail a ballot to your husband at either his residence or the hospital as so indicated on the application. Please note that the last day for mailing an application for ballot is 5 days prior to the election.

Q. *I am now a resident of a skilled care nursing facility and am phy-*

*physically disabled. What should I do in order to vote?*

A. If you are not a permanent resident of this facility and are physically disabled you may vote as an incapacitated voter from your permanent address. If you are a permanent resident of this facility and are physically disabled you must transfer your registration to the address of the nursing facility and make application to vote as an incapacitated voter.

*Q. I am a resident of a state mental institution. Am I still entitled to vote; if so, what procedures do I follow?*

A. Because you are a patient in a mental institution, you are considered to remain a resident of the town, city, village or election district or precinct in which you resided immediately prior to becoming a patient in the mental institution, and you are entitled to vote in that election precinct. You may vote either in person, by absentee ballot (if you are a patient in an institution outside of the county in which you resided), or as an incapacitated voter. You should follow the basic procedures outlined on the following page.

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Outlined below are the basic procedures to be followed by voters who expect to be hospitalized on election day:

1. Obtain the "Application for Ballot by Physically Incapacitated Elector." This may be obtained from your hospital, or from your County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners. In local elections, contact the governmental unit conducting the election, i.e., village, school, park district, etc.
2. Complete the application, indicating the reason you will be physically incapable of voting in person on election day.
3. Have your attending physician or Christian Science Practitioner complete the appropriate certificate. If you have a permanent physical incapacity which makes it unlikely that you will be able to vote in person at any future election, you may secure a disabled voter's identification card which will enable you to vote as a physically incapacitated voter without having your application for ballot being accompanied by an affidavit of an attending physician for each election. Contact your County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners for an application for permanently incapacitated voter's identification card.
4. File your application within the time limits listed below. By Mail: not more than 30 days nor less than 5 days prior to the election. In Person: not more than 30 days nor less than 1 day prior to the election.
5. After receiving your ballot, vote the ballot in secret, insert the ballot into the carrier envelope, seal it, complete the affidavit on the back of the envelope, and return it to the election authority as quickly as possible, but no later than in sufficient time for it to be delivered by the election authority to the polling place before the polls are closed on election day.

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## THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about a greater understanding of and participation in the electoral process. *Authorities on Illinois elections are available as speakers for civic organizations, school groups and the general public.*

For more information on election laws and procedures, write or call the State Board of Elections.



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